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Representative Don Roberts,  
Chair & Committee Members

Joint Appropriations Sub-Committee on Health & Human Services

With regard to the State Legislature's plan to make budget cuts in Medicaid programs, including cuts to the Medicaid Waiver & Personal Assistance Services programs.

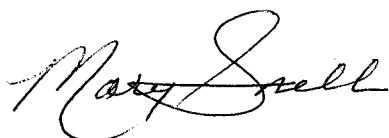
My son is in the Medicaid Waiver program. He lives at a traumatic brain injury group home and loves where he lives and what they do for him. He had to wait almost a year to get into the waiver program slot at this home because of the already long waiting list they have. If the proposed budget cuts go into effect, there will be an even longer waiting list of individuals who need important care.

The levels of services that the Medicaid Waiver program has are already limited and if these proposed budget cuts go into effect it will result in services he receives being reduced and/or discontinued.

My son lives from day-to-day with cerebral palsy, epilepsy, depression & anxiety. The others in the Medicaid Waiver program each have their own story, which I'm sure are similar, some milder.....some worse. The home where he lives, Liberty Place Inc., is a great asset to Montana families and individuals who have to live with these special needs. If these budget cuts are passed, it may result in more struggles for Liberty Place to continue helping individuals like my son and possibly even resulting in these homes being closed up.

It is my hope that some research could be done to make budget cuts in other areas that are not as "Need-Based". As we all do.....we sometimes have to stop and take a look at what are really "needs" and what are really "wants".

Very Sincerely,



Mary Snell, Mother of Medicaid Waiver Program Recipient